is being continued in 2006-07. Steps being taken for boosting coffee exports include carrying out communication initiatives in key overseas markets to enhance the image of Indian coffee as well as to improve market share, shifting product mix from Robusta in favour of Arabica, participating in important overseas trade fairs, organizing Buyer-Seller Meets and instituting Export awards to encourage exporters. The export cess of Rs. 500 per MT on coffee was abolished by the Government in an effort to make Indian coffees more competitive.

(c) All the initiatives being taken for the Indian tea industry are available to the tea industry in Assam.

Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana

3365. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana launched by Government;

(b) the details of funds allocated so far for the export of fruits, vegetables, flowers and their value added products, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether steps have been taken to identify areas where such export potentials are high in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojana was introduced in the Foreign Trade Policy announced on 31st August, 2004 to promote exports of Fruits, Vegetables, Flowers, Minor Forest Produce and their value added products. In the Annual Supplement of Foreign Trade Policy issued on 8th April, 2005, Dairy, Poultry and their value added products were also included for benefits under the scheme. In the second Annual Supplement of the Foreign Trade Policy issued on 7th April, 2006, Gram Udyog products have also been included within the ambit of the scheme and the scheme has been renamed as "Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana." The eligible exports are

entitled for duty credit scrip equivalent to 5% of the FOB value of exports. This duty credit can be used for import of inputs or goods (excluding capital goods and some specified high duty agriculture products) which are otherwise freely importable under ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Item. Details of the scheme are given in the book titled "Foreign Trade Policy 2004—2009" updated as on 7th April, 2006 and "Hand Book of Procedures Vol. I" updated as on 7th April, 2006 and is available in the Parliament Library. Funds are not allocated under the scheme, but on the basis of eligible exports, duty credit scrips are issued, which can be used for import of freely importable goods or inputs.

(c) and (d) With a view to promote Agricultural and related exports from Tamil Nadu four Agri Export Zones have been setup in Tamilnadu for export of specific products from a geographically contiguous area. These are (1) Dharmpuri District for Flowers; (2) Nilgiri District for Flowers; (3) Districts of Madurai, Theni, Dindigul, Virudhunagar and Tirunelveli for Mangoes; (4) Districts of Cuddalore, Tanjavur, Pudukottai and Sivaganga for Cashewnut.

These areas have been notified based upon the export potential.

New SEZ norms

3366. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has formulated new SEZ norms to provide single window clearance of proposals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the industry and financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 (SEZ Act) and the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 (SEZ Rules) have been put into force from 10th February, 2006. The SEZ Act and Rules provide a mechanism for Single Window Clearance for the